Drought assistance to Assam

1053. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the parts of Assam earlier hit by heavy floods and rains have been hit by low quantum of rain or drought this year;

(b) whether the Assam Government has submitted any proposal for relief to the farmers and if so, the quantum of the Central aid sought for; and

(c) the response of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) This year, the Government of Assam has not reported floods in the State. The State Government have, however, declared drought-like situation in 22 out of 27 districts in the State.

(b) and (c) This year, no Memorandum seeking Central assistance for drought relief has so far been received from the Government of Assam. The State Government can, however, utilize the funds available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought, in accordance with the existing itmes and norms of expenditure for assistance from relief funds.

Farmer's suicides

1054. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers committing suicide during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Government have identified the suicide prone areas and have sorted out the reasons behind the trend; and

(c) steps Government contemplate to take in order to curb the menace effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A Statement on the number of farmers committing

suicide because of agriculture-related reasons from the year 2003, as reported by the State Governments, is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The Government of India has recently approved a rehabilitation package for 31 identified suicide prone districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The rehabilitation package involves a total amount of Rs. 16978.69 crore. The package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying fisheries etc.

Statement

Case of suicide by farmers

Sl.No.	Name of the state	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Governments)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	393
		2004-05	1126
		2005-06	300
		2006-(January to November)	138
2.	Karnataka	2003-04	708
		2004-05	271
		2005-06	152
		2006-07 (upto Nov., 06)	77
3.	Maharashtra	2003	170
		2004	620
		2005	572
		2006 (upto November)	1228

1	2	3	4
4.	Punjab	2003	13
		2004	11
		2005	6
5.	Kerala	2003	74
		2004	135
		2005	120
		2006 (upto November)	146
6.	Gujarat	2003	3
		2004	7
		2005	7
		2006 (upto May)	1

Note: For Maharashtra, the figures for the period July to November, 2006 are only in respect of six districts of the Vidarbha region, namely, Akola, Wardha, Amravati, Buldana, Wasim and Yavatmal, and includes the eligible cases indicated by the State Government.

Wheat production

†1055. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the research carried out by the research institutions of the country there is a wide gap between the expected capacity and actual production of wheat in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that by utilizing this capacity there can be additional production of 20 million tones of wheat per year;

(c) if so, the facts in this regards; and

(d) the action plan Government have furmulated to increase agriculture production in these States?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.